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CLASSIFICATION SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 19 Mar 1953

SUBJECT "Svornost" Prison Camp

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SOURCE

1. There have been 1,200 prisoners in the "Svornost" Prison camp at Jachymov. Of these, 80% had been imprisoned for political reasons and 20% for other reasons. All prisoners in this camp were compelled to work in the "Svornost" mines in Jachymov. Prisoners, divided into three groups, work eight hours per day in the mines with civilian employees. In addition to the eight-hour shift, they must join working brigades making repairs to the camp and the mines. The prisoners are overloaded with work, have very little free time, no sleep and must do the hardest work. Living conditions in camp are deplorable.

2. Prisoners are divided into three groups;

Group I comprises prisoners whose work quota is fulfilled 150%; there are only six of these in the whole camp. This group has certain privileges: they receive better food, more meat and dessert for lunch every day and are allowed to write their families once every two months.

Group II consists of prisoners whose work quota is fulfilled 120%; there are only 60 of these in the camp. This group also receives better food, and dessert for lunch, and are allowed to write their families only once every three months.

Group III is composed of prisoners whose work quota is fulfilled 100%. These are served regular food and no dessert. They are allowed to write their families twice a year. Prisoners who fulfill their quota under 60% are punished by solitary confinement after they finish the eight-hour work day. They receive no meat and are not allowed to write their families. According to new standards no prisoner is to fulfill his quota more than 100%.

3. Prisoners receive the same wages as civilian employees; however, expenses for food, lodging, light and clothing are deducted from these wages. For prisoners who do not earn a sufficient amount to pay their expenses, the unpaid balance is entered in a special account. This unpaid balance has to be paid after discharge from prison or the prisoner is compelled to serve additional hours in the mines. Prisoners who earn more than they need for expenses have the surplus amount credited to their account to be used as they see fit.

4. Prisoners who fulfill their quota 120% can have the family visit them every three months. A special building has been built in Dolni Zdar as a reception center for families of prisoners who are transported from camp by automobile. A visitor is allowed to speak with a prisoner for fifteen minutes only and a member of the civilian police is always present. No visitor is permitted to bring food to any of the prisoners.

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5. In March 1952, 140 prisoners, interned in Siberia during World War II, were transferred to the Jachymov mines. This group consisted mostly of Slovak prisoners who in 1946 had been transferred from Siberia to the Caucasus as laborers. In 1950 they had been sent to Hungary. The Hungarian Government, however, did not accept them because they were Czechoslovak citizens. Consequently they were sent to Czechoslovakia and the Jachymov mines.

6. When leaving the USSR each one had to sign a declaration stating that he would not divulge any information concerning conditions in the Soviet Union.

- end -

ENCLOSURE (A): Sketch Showing "Svornost" Prison Camp in Jachymov with Legend

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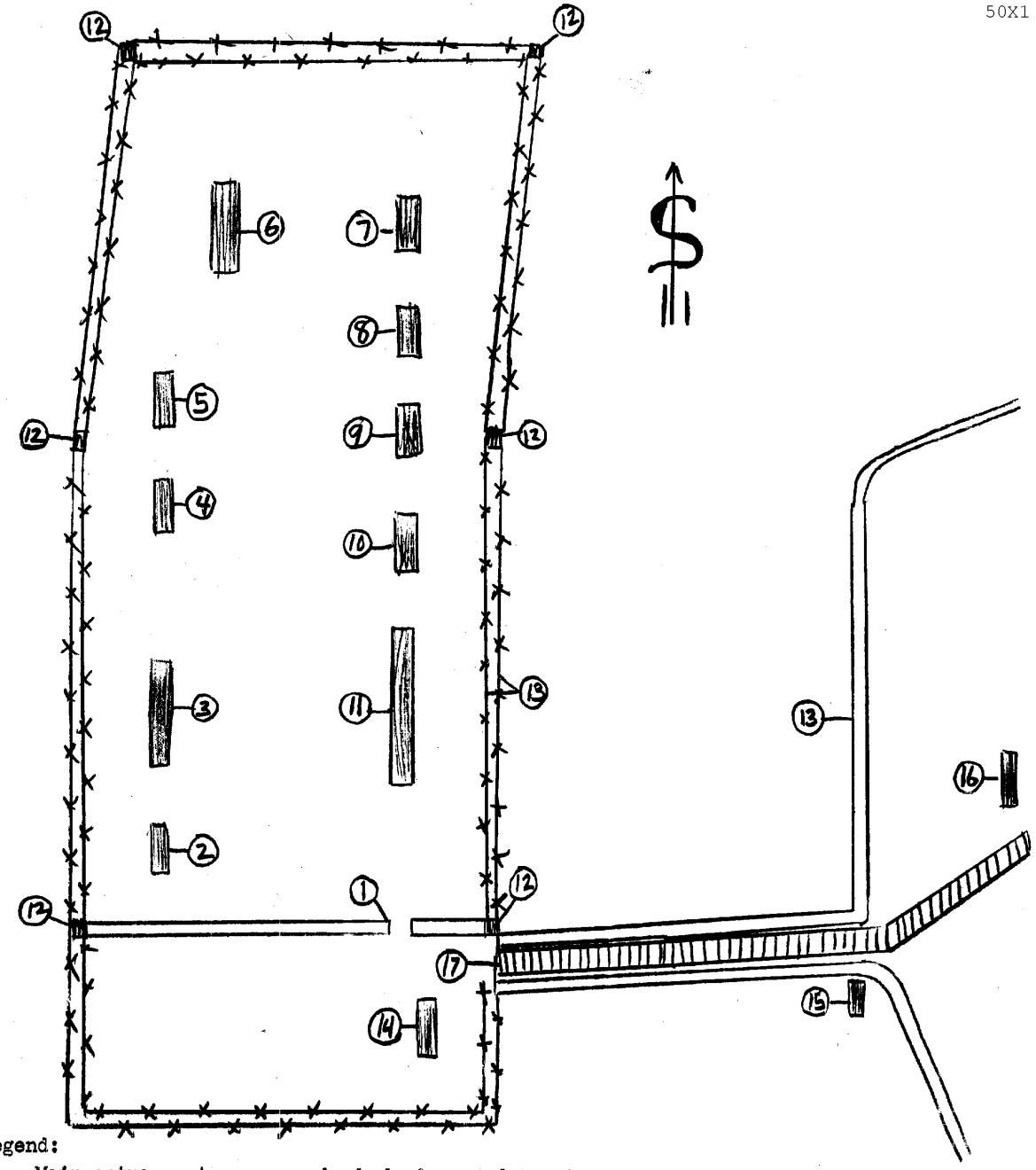
ENCLOSURE (A)

SKETCH SHOWING "SVORNOST" PRISON CAMP IN JACHYMOV WITH LEGEND

50X1



Legend:

1... Main entrance to camp, a barbed wire wooden gate.
2... First-aid rooms, one-story wooden building, 20 x 8 m with a tar-paper roof.
3... Camp Commander's offices and prisoners' quarters. One-story wooden building 40 x 8 meters with a tar-paper roof.
4... Prisoner barracks. One-story wooden building, 15 x 8 meters, with a tar-paper roof.
5... Same as No 4.
6... Wood and coal storage. One-story wooden building, 30 x 12 m with a tar-paper roof.
7... Prisoner barracks. One-story wooden building, 15 x 10 m with a tar-paper roof.
8... Same as No 7
9... Same as No 7
10... Kitchen. One-story wooden building 15 x 10 meters, with a tar-paper roof.
11... Prisoner barracks. One-story, wooden building, 15 x 8 meters.
12... Control towers, 13 meters high, occupied by members of the SNB armed with rifle and five hand grenades and a light machine gun during hours of darkness.
13... Barbed wire fence, 2.5 meters high.
14... SNB guard house. One-story wooden building 15 x 10 m with a tar-paper roof.
15... SNB guard house. One-story wooden building, 10 x 7 m with a tar-paper roof.
16... Building for storage of mining lamps. One-story brick building, 15 x 7 m, flat concrete roof
17... 270 wooden stairs from camp to "Svornost" mine.

Note: Living quarters appear to be inadequate for 1,200 prisoners. Therefore, it is believed that the size of the barracks is somewhat larger than described.

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